

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 XMB-07 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 MC-02

DRC-01 /169 W

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R 161425Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 307

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

FAA BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11200

COMMERCE FOR COHEN AND EXIMBANK FOR E YOUNG

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR EG

SUBJ: CIVAIR - EGYPTAIR REEQUIPMENT AND LINES OF DEVELOPMENT

REF: CAIRO 5150, 5064 AND 986

1. RCAA AND EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH EGYPTAIR OFFICIALS DURING LOCKHEED-CALIFORNIA DEMONSTRATION TRISTAR TO EGYPTAIR SEP 9-11 INDICATE FOL: (A) AIRLINE HAS MADE DECISION TO PERMANENTLY GROUND FLEET SEVEN NEW TUPOLEV TU-154 TRIJETS AND TO SUSPEND FURTHER LOAN PAYMENTS, IF POSSIBLE, TO AVIAEXPORT, DUE UNSATISFACTORY SAFETY AND ECONOMIC FACTORS (EIGHTH TU-154 CRASHED TRAINING ACCIDENT JUL 11); (B) DUE CURRENT TIGHT-CASH FLOW POSITION AIRLINE, EGYPTAIR SCALING DOWN REEQUIPMENT PLANS TO COVER IMMEDIATE OR NEAR-TERM ACQUISITION EIGHT USED AIRCRAFT, FOUR OF WHICH WOULD BE IN CATEGORY
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OF DC-9, BAC-111 OR BOEING 737 AND FOUR IN CATEGORY OF

BOEING 720B OR 727-100, TO FILL CAPACITY GAP CREATED BY
GROUNDING TU-154'S AND TO REPLACE AN-24B'S ON DOMESTIC
AND REGIONAL ROUTES; (C) EGYPTAIR TENTATIVELY PLANS TO
ORDER THREE WIDEBODIED MED-RANGE AIRCRAFT NO LATER
THAN SPRING 1975 FOR DELIVERY LATE 1976 OR EARLY
1977; (D) RCAA ESTIMATES TOTAL EQUIPMENT PACKAGE AT
\$25 MILLION FOR THE USED AIRCRAFT AND \$90-100 FOR THE
THREE NEW WIDEBODIED AIRCRAFT; (E) AIRLINE CURRENTLY
WETLEASING BOEING ADVANCED 727-200 FROM STERLING AIRWAYS
AND BOEING 720-025 FROM TRANS EUROPEAN AIRWAYS TO HELP
MEET SEVERE CAPACITY GAP; (F) TRAFFIC APPEARS TO BE RUNNING
GENERALLY 20 PCT AHEAD OF LAST YEAR, DESPITE SEVERE PRESSURE
ON EGYPTAIR CAPACITY DUE TU-154 GROUNDINGS.

2. DETAILED AIRGRAM FOLLOWS SHORTLY.
GODLEY

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